

# Forsyth County EMS

## Patient Care Policy: Children with Special Healthcare Needs

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**Background:** Medical technology changes in the healthcare industry, and increased home health capabilities have created a special population of patients that interface with the EMS system. It is important for EMS to understand and provide quality care to children with special health care needs.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide quality patient care and EMS services to children with special health care needs while understanding the need to communicate with the parents and caregivers regarding healthcare needs and equipment that Forsyth County Emergency Medical Services (FCEMS) personnel may not have experience with.

1. Caregivers who call 9-1-1 to report an emergency involving a child with special health care needs may report that the emergency involves a “Kidbase child” (if they are familiar with the NC Kidbase program) or may state that the situation involves a special needs child.
2. Responding FCEMS personnel should ask the caregiver of a special needs child for a copy of the “Kidbase Form”, which is the North Carolina terminology for the Emergency Information Form (EIF).
3. FCEMS personnel may choose to contact the child’s primary care physician for assistance with specific conditions or devices or for advice regarding appropriate treatment and/or transport of the child in the specific situation.
4. Transportation of the child, if necessary, will be made to the hospital appropriate for the specific condition of the child. In some cases this may involve bypassing the closest facility for a more distant yet more medically appropriate destination.

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October, 2003

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